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June 4, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

Please end the use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth when those antibiotics are used to treat humans. Jeopardizing the effectiveness of antibiotics essential for public health protection is a high price to pay to fatten hogs and poultry.

Prominent public health organizations and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention have expressed concern about the massive use of antibiotics to increase livestock weight, in light of the growing evidence of antibiotic resistance.

The United States should follow the example of the European Union, which banned adding human-use antibiotics to animal feed last year.

I hope that antibiotic resistance does not grow into a public health crisis before the United States takes effective action to regulate the unnecessary use of these drugs in animal feeds. I await your reply.

Sincerely,


L. Victoria Peterson

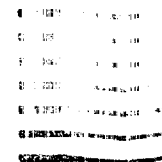
cc, - Lee Terry, Congress
Bob Kerrey, Senate
Chuck Hagel, Senate

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